

RAILROAD NEWS

Year Past One of Perplexity for American Railways.

Presidents of Roads Answer Questions as to Conditions.

PROSECUTORS--PERSECUTORS

H. U. Mudge Calls It "Unbusinesslike Strangulation."

Other Items of General Interest in the Traffic World.

From the railway viewpoint last year was one of unprecedented perplexity. A year ago the first decreases in gross earnings of any importance since August of 1911 were beginning to appear, and the eastern lines were confidentially concluding their arguments before the interstate commerce commission for a 5 per cent increase in freight rates. Not until August 1, the day Germany declared war on Russia, was the rate decision handed down and then the 5 per cent increase was granted only to those roads operating west of Buffalo and Pittsburgh.

The New York Evening Post recently sent out questionnaires to many of the prominent railway heads in the country and along with the answers sent by the presidents summed up the events leading to the freight rate increase granted last month. In the face of steadily decreasing earnings, the Post says, the lines operating east of Buffalo and Pittsburgh succeeded in raising the 5 per cent rate case, and opening the 18 finally won a favorable verdict. The decision came at the moment when depression in the railroad industry—as a result of the general derangement of trade caused by the European war—was at its darkest. It left both Wall street and the business community at large in doubt as to what would be the outcome next year.

The questions submitted by the Post to the railroad heads are given below: "What do you look for as the dominant influence coming out of the year 1915 to be a good or a bad year from the railroad viewpoint? What should be the trend of gross and net earnings of the past eight or ten months will cause unusually heavy purchases of rails, equipment, and supplies during the next twelve months? To what extent, in your opinion, has the railroad situation in general been helped and to what extent injured by government regulation up to the present date? What changes, if any, should be made in the existing system and machinery of rate regulation?"

Answers received to the foregoing questions by two western railroad heads are as follows: Henry U. Mudge, President Rock Island.

The dominant influences on railway affairs in the coming twelve months will be better regulation of the railways by the lawmakers and those who are delegated to give effect to the laws. There will be a tendency on the part of the latter to treat the railways more as a business than as a public utility. I believe the year 1915 will give the railways larger gross earnings; I doubt if the net earnings will show much increase because of the necessity for higher operating costs, particularly as to maintenance.

It is true that the enforced economies of the past eight or ten months will cause unusually heavy purchases of supplies if the railways have the wherewithal to make these purchases. The railway situation was helped by regulation until the regulators reached a point where they were not only prosecutors, but persecutors of the railways. For the past twelve months there have been no benefits to the railways from regulation, and the unbusinesslike strangulation has been very ruinous.

The changes that I would suggest in the existing system and machinery of rate regulation are, first, that there should be only one rate regulation body in the United States for the regulation of all freight and passenger rates, and, second, that this body should be composed of a sufficient number of able men to handle the affairs more promptly, and that it should be divided into sections covering the various parts of the country. The enlargement of the commission ought to be the addition of some men with a knowledge of railway operation, and others with some financial knowledge.

Edward P. Ripley, President Atchafson, Topeka & Santa Fe.

It looks to me as if the current year taken as a whole will not be as good as last year, either as to gross or net earnings. There are some exceptions, however, in the territory traversed by western roads, which will get large benefits from the heavy crops.

The enforced economies of the past year will necessitate some work during the next twelve months; but not large as compared with those made in ordinary years.

Government regulation has helped the railroads to a certain extent, and will help more if intelligently directed. Of late it has not been intelligent. The law giving the interstate commerce commission the right to suspend rates for practically an indefinite period and the law placing the burden of proof on the railroads should be repealed if regulation is to be successful; also the interstate commerce commission should not be obliged to act in the capacity of detective, prosecuting attorney, judge and jury, fairness under such circumstances being impossible.

IN INTEREST OF SAFETY.

Rock Island Is Distributing Warnings to the Public in Kansas.

The Rock Island safety department has issued warnings to the public which will be thoroughly distributed on the lines of that railroad. General Safety Supervisor Shedd is at the head of the movement and the work in the district will be handled by D. B. Lothian of Topeka, district safety supervisor.

The card points out that in 1912, 5,434 persons were killed and 3,687 injured as the result of trespassing. Following is the reading matter on the warning:

"The management of the Rock Island lines, through its safety bureau, warns you that the following practices are dangerous, as indulgence therein

BOBBY WALLACE WAS PLAYING BASEBALL WHEN MANY WHO ARE NOW DODDERING OLD MEN WORE SWADDLING CLOTHES

Who is the oldest player in point of service at present on the ball field?

Now, don't all answer at once and claim Lajoie or Wagner, for it is neither.

The player who has drawn salary for ball playing the greatest number of consecutive seasons is none other than Bobbie Wallace of the St. Louis Browns. The past season was his twenty-second consecutive one on the diamond, two years longer than Lajoie and a season more than Wagner.

Now many will no doubt say, why, I did not think Wallace was older than Wagner. Well, he isn't for the big Pirate shortstop was born Feb. 24, 1874, while Wallace was born Nov. 4 the same year, and that sterling player, Larry Lajoie, was born Sept. 5, 1875, so there you have the correct ages of the three oldest players in point of consecutive playing before the public.



too frequently results in loss of life,

limb and minor accidents.

"Falling to stop, listen and look both ways before attempting to cross a railroad track whether on foot or in a vehicle.

"Trespassing upon the right of way, tracks, engines, cars or trains of any railroad.

"Permitting children to use the railroad right of way as a 'short cut' or using it as such yourself.

"Standing too close to track when a train is approaching.

"Boarding or leaving moving trains.

"Leaving trains on side opposite the station platform.

"Riding upon the platforms or steps of cars while in motion.

"Putting head or arms out of car windows.

"Permitting your baggage to remain in car aisles.

"Permitting children to run about the train while in motion, or go from car to car unaccompanied by an adult.

"Throwing bottles and other refuse from moving trains.

"Taking chances at any time or in any place.

"Help us to prevent injury."

Six Santa Fe Brothers.

Some of these days the Santa Fe might run a special train on the western Kansas division. A train crew of six brothers, all Grockowskys, could be made up nicely. There are six of these brothers, John, Paul, Mike, Andy, Mart and Will. All are Santa Fe employees at Newton. Some are on the road and others are in the shops.

D. & R. G. Changes.

W. H. Cundey has been made assistant general passenger agent of the Denver & Rio Grande and the Rio Grande Southern railroads with headquarters in Denver. A. C. Wilson has been appointed general agent for the Rio Grande, Western Pacific, Missouri Pacific and St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern railroads at Colorado Springs.

THROUGH THE KEYHOLE

Sees His Wife Sitting on Man's Lap and Kills Her.

New York, Jan. 4.—Mrs. Frances Collins was shot and killed early today at her home, where she lived with her husband, William, and her two brothers. The husband is charged with murder. Collins heard his wife's voice in an adjoining bedroom last night. He went to the door, peeped through the keyhole and saw her sitting on a man's lap. Collins demanded admission, was refused, and it is charged, fired through the panel of the door. Mrs. Collins fell to the floor, fatally wounded.

The man in whose lap Mrs. Collins was sitting was said to be her brother George.

SPORT WHEEZES.

Being Performed, Dog Meat, Frane Pies, Lemon Sandwiches, Etc.

(By Clug.)

By the end of this week Manager Champeny of the Washburn basketball team expects to have completely mobilized his forces and to be ready for the season's campaign. The after-holiday practice begins this afternoon and predictions of a victorious season have been planted on every corner of the Inhabod campus.

The game with K. U. is the only doubtful one," says a superlatively optimistic Ichy, "and we are going to do our best to trim the basket arbors of Mt. Oread just to even things up on the football record."

No candidates have been handed contracts assuring them a position on the team, but the Ream brothers, Earl Trobert, of 83-yard football fame, Pinky Beals and "Chief" Myers seem to be the favorites in the running.

All of these men, with the exception of Dwight Ream's brother, are members of the 1914 football team and all of them were exceptionally good on the forward pass.

Upon request of Alonso Culeet the following rules governing a pocket billiard tournament are laid down:

First—No player shall be allowed to wear gloves, except rubber, or to otherwise pad his hands while participating in a match.

Second—All players must use English when calling their shots and must not use English when forced to make comments on their own punt failures.

Third—Any player who puts rosin, glue or sorghum molasses in the talcum powder can shall forfeit the game to his opponent and the score shall be 100 to 0 regarding the outcome of the game at the time of "sticky stuff is discovered."

Fourth—Threatening, frightening or in any way intimidating a ball or an opponent by wearing a vicious looking necktie shall be prohibited. The referee shall at all times have the power to compel a player to remove from sight any necktie that he considers dangerous or menacing in any way. This rule shall apply to handkerchiefs as well as neckties where they are brought into prominence too frequently.

Fifth—No player shall be allowed to put his foot, head, or other part of his body into a pocket in order to keep an opponent from depositing a ball therein.

Sixth—Calling a short draw shot a knee length or a long draw a combination suit shall be considered immodest and shall not be tolerated. A second offense will result in a forfeit of the game, such as Susie, Snake Mary, Old Heifer, Sweetheart, Dirty Pup and

is taking an unfair advantage and shall be considered unsportsmanlike.

Seventh—Players will at all times be expected to use a viaduct when they have to have both feet off the floor at the same time.

Fighting for kisses is the latest thing in boxing circles. Teddy Jacobs, who outpointed Frankie Brown in a ten-round New York bout last week is the lucky guy. Among Jacob's seconds was a pretty young girl who stayed in the corner of the ring and kissed him at the end of every round.

Jacobs and this girl should both be given Iron Cross medals. And, if all fighters will take up the tip, it will do more towards reviving interest in the game and keeping it clean, than anything else in the world. Just think of the good old deacons who would take to the ring if they thought they could have a pretty girl kiss them every so many minutes!

The Federal League and the Federal League camp followers are now advertising the fact that there are more stars in the outlaw camp than in either of the other major leagues. They include Walter Johnson of Kansas and Lee Magee of St. Louis.

Whether they have or haven't is of small importance, but it is a cinch that if they keep on dropping dollars in the slot and keep on long enough they will accumulate a pretty good star pile. The only thing that can ever keep them from sticking no star seems to be a lack of money and so far money seems to have been one of their least worries.

Unless something unforeseen happens, the Feds ought to put out some fast teams this season and ought to give the fans a few games that will be worth looking at.

New York, Jan. 4.—Upon the request of Manager Pollock, Promoter Jimmy Johnston has changed the date of the Freddie Welsh-Charley White battle here from January 13 to January 26. Pollock wants the champion to be in the best of condition, as he realizes White is about the toughest foe Welsh has met within the last year. Manager Lewis for White agreed to the postponement and is making arrangements to return to Chicago with his near champion. Lewis promised to return to New York

with White no later than January 13, and also agreed to accept no matches in New York during the interim, but was privileged to have White battle elsewhere. Charley may engage in a fight in Wisconsin before he tackles Welsh.

Chick Evans has picked eight of the greatest golfers of the world, and has modestly omitted his own name. Harry Vardon has picked Evans as the greatest golfer in America, and he ought to know something about great players. Evans is best at medal play, every one will concede, but since when has medal play taken the place over the medal round?

In the old days of football a center was a necessary evil, a huge bulk of humanity who was not expected to do much except stop, by sheer weight, the through-the-center plunges and pass the ball accurately. To elect him a leader of the team was almost an unheard of thing. This year, of the fifty college captains already selected for next year's football teams, there are more centers than men occupying other positions, and the centers today have one of the hardest positions on the team to fill. Football has grown rapidly in the past decade and every man who plays now has to be an intelligent, well trained, alert athlete.

Harvard's refusal to give games to Michigan and Washington & Jefferson in 1915 is a clear case of "cold feet"—and something more. The moral seems to be: If you want to have Harvard schedule you for a game each year you must be careful not to come anywhere near beating the Crimson.

Verily these do be dark days for the dark boxer. Rather they will be if other boxing commissions follow the lead taken by the Wisconsin body. It has barred competitions between former boxers, while one of its original rules prohibits mixed contests, or bouts between a white and colored boxer. The situation wouldn't be so poignantly tough if those lumbering boys disguised as white hopes would show a desire to do battle with the Langfords, McVeas, Jeanettes and Wills in places where such contests are allowed. As conditions exist, though, the star black boys are virtually out of it.

TO BOX FOR STOCKMEN.

Denver Will Probably Have Match Between Wolgast and Arzevedo.

Denver, Col., Jan. 4.—Promoter Jack Kanner of the Colorado A. C. has announced that he has secured the Auditorium for a twenty-round bout during the stockmen's convention and

that Ad Wolgast had accepted his terms to box here.

Kanner has asked Joe Arzevedo, the California lightweight, for his terms and it is probable that Wolgast and Arzevedo will clash here on January 1.

G. A. R. MEMORIAL.

Services for Old Soldiers at Lowman Hill Church.

Memorial services for members of Post No. 71, G. A. R., and of the W. R. C. who died during the year of 1914 were held Sunday at the Lowman Hill Methodist church. The Rev. W. M. Balch delivered the memorial address and the Rev. J. K. Miller gave the eulogies on the deceased members. The church was crowded during the services. Ralph Jackson sounded taps. Members of the G. A. R. for whom the services were held: H. M. S. Day, Martin Weisner, J. M. Dunne, John H. Friswell, Alonzo Stone, James Smith, George Reed, W. J. Whittekind, Albert McClain and John S. Steadman.

Members of the W. R. C. who died in 1914: Mrs. Margaret Shaw, Mrs. Francis Riley Dunnell, Mrs. Francis DeBow and Mrs. Mary Dwyer.

VICTORY FOR STATE.

Gas Hearing a Decisive Result, Says Attorney General Dawson.

That the ending of the recent natural gas hearing before the Kansas Public Utilities commission was a victory for the state, owing to the fact that the gas companies were unable to get away from the control of the commission into the federal courts, is the opinion of John Dawson, attorney general of Kansas, in his last report to the legislature.

Had the companies succeeded in taking the case into the federal courts, any railroad could have done the same and the public utilities act would practically have been made null and void, according to Mr. Dawson.

Horses and Cattle Dying.

Norway, Kan., Jan. 4.—Reports coming in from the farmers of nearly every locality indicate that the losses of both cattle and horses from corn stalk disease this winter are apparently larger than usual, owing, no doubt, to the scarcity of water on many farms. The losses in this and adjoining counties will likely run into the thousands of dollars.

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MID-WINTER EXPOSITION

2 WEEKS AUDITORIUM 2 WEEKS

January 18th to 30th
BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVERPRIZES For Every
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Ticket and Attends
the Mid-Winter PRIZES

Split Week Programs—Each Performance Appears 3 Days—Then Something Entirely New